

REMARKS:

By this amendment, claims 2, 17, and 40 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 3-8, 10-16, 18, 20-39, and 41-44 remain pending in the application.

The Office Action indicates that claims 2, 8, 14, 17, 23, 24, 27, 35, and 40 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 2, so claim 6 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Also, independent claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 17, so claim 15 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Independent claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 40, so claim 25 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Finally, independent claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations similar to those of allowable claim 27, so claim 44 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Since claims 6, 15, 25, and 44 are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason of including limitations from allowable claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims, as well as their dependent claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn. Similarly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 2, 8, 14, 17, 23, 24, 27, 35, and 40 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

No fees are deemed to be necessary; however, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. **500777**.

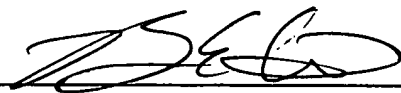
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required

for such Petition for Extension of Time should be charged to Deposit Account No. 500777.

Please link this application to Customer No. 53184 so that its status may be checked via the PAIR System.

Respectfully submitted,

6/16/06
Date


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